

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 016034

41

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O PJOHNSON

APPROVED BY:S/S-O PJOHNSON

----- 098677

O 221335Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016034

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 1008 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK

KUALA LUMPUR JAKARTA SINGAPORE MANILA DTG O R 221000Z JAN 76

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1008

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN, JA US

SUBJ: JAPANESE INITIATIVE WITH ASEAN: PM MIKI TO THE  
ASEAN SUMMIT?

SUMMARY: VICE FONMIN YOSHINO REVEALED CONFIDENTIALLY  
TO CHARGE THAT GOJ HAS APPROACHED SOME ASEAN GOVERN-  
MENTS PROPOSNG GOJ PRIMIE MINISTER PARTICIPATION IN INFORMAL  
CONSULTATIONS, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ASEAN SUMMIT  
SCHEUDLED IN BALI FEB 23-24. JAPANESE ALSO  
PROPSED INVITATIONS TO AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND  
PRIME MINISTERS. YOSHINO NOTED THAT DURING  
EXPLORATION OF THIS CONCEPT CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN  
TO INCLUDING THE US AND EEC ALSO IN THE CONSULTATIONS  
AN SOUGHT USG REACTION TO THESE PROPOSALS. OBVIOUSLY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 016034

STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY PM MIKI, THIS INITIATIVE REPRESENTS

ONE OF VERY FEW JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES  
SINCE WWII. WE SEE SOME ADVANTAGE IN GOJ PARTICIPATION  
IF ASEAN GOVERNMENTS AGREE TO INVITATIONS TO JAPAN  
AND OTHERS, BUT DO NOT THINK US SHOULD PARTICIPATE AT THIS  
STAGE IN THIS PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FORECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
YOSHINO, ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, PROVIDED CHARGE  
ON JANUARY 22 WITH EXPLANATION OF BACKGROUND TO PRESS  
REPORTS THAT PM MIKI MIGHT ATTEND THE ASEAN SUMMIT  
IN BALI. YOSHINO INDICATED THAT IN FACT GOJ HAD  
TAKEN INITIATIVE IN ENCOURAGING SOME CLOSER ASSOCIATION  
BETWEEN ASEAN AND ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES OF  
REGION WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING "POLITICAL  
STABILITY" AND SENSE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE AMONG ASEAN  
COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT HE HAD FIRST BROACHED THIS  
IDEA DIRECTLY WITH PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW  
IN DECEMBER OF 1975. LEE HAD BEEN RECEPTIVE TO  
IDEA, BUT DID NOT FEEL HE COULD TAKE INITIATIVE IN  
PROMOTING IT. SUBSEQUENTLY, THEREFORE, GOJ APPARENTLY  
UNDERTOOK IT. INFORMAL SOUNDINGS WITH THALAND, PHILLIPINES  
AND INDONESIA, MEETING ENCOURAGING RESPONSE. GOJ  
HAS NOT YET SEEMED TO THINK GOA AT LEAST WOULD WELCOME  
ASEAN INVITATION IF FORTHCOMING. YOSHINO WAS  
SOMEWHAT DISCONCERTED BY WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS PREMATURE  
SURFACING IN KUALA LUMPUR OF THIS POSSIBILITY (HE  
SAID THAT GOJ HAD NOT YET APPROACHED GOM) AND  
STRESSED IMPORTANCE THAT INITIATIVE IN THIS MATTER  
BE SEEN AS COMING FROM ASEAN COUNTRIES AND NOT JAPAN.  
ALTHOUGH FINAL DECISION NOT TAKEN BY ASEAN COUNTRIES  
TO INVITE PRIME MINISTERS OF JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND  
NEW ZEALAND FOR INFORMALEXCHANGE OF VIEWS FOLLOWING  
ASEAN SUMMIT, YOSHINO SEEMED HOPEFUL THAT IT WOULD  
MATERIALIZE. HE IS LEAVING JANUARY 23 FOR JAKARTA  
AND MANILA TO SEEK ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THESE GOVERN-  
MENTS.

2. YOSHINO STATED THAT IN COURSE OF EXPLORATION  
OF THIS CONCEPT, SOME CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN  
TO INCLUDING U.S. AND EC IN GROUP OF ADVANCED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 016034

INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFIC AS  
TO DETAILS, YOSHINO INDICATED THAT THINKING TO  
DATE HAS BEEN THAT ASSOCIATION WOULD BE INFORMAL,  
POSSIBLY INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE  
ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AS OBSERVERS AT ASEAN  
MEETINGS AND ON OCCASION PROVIDING FOR EXCHANGES  
OF VIEWS AT SUMMIT LEVEL, FOLLOWING PATTERN NOW  
BEING EXPLORED FOR BALI MEETING. YOSHINO SAID HE

WISHED U.S. TO BE ACQUAINTED WITH GOJ INTEREST IN THIS DEVELOPMENT BUT HOPED WE WOULD HOLD CLOSELY ROLE WHICH GOJ HAS BEEN PLAYING THUS FAR. HE WOULD PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE HAVING OUR REACTIONS TO CONCEPT OF ENCOURAGING CLOSER ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ASEAN AND ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AND IN PARTICULAR, WHETHER US WOULD BE WILLING TO PARITICPATE IN SUCH A GROUPING. YOSHINO SAID HE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS WE MIGHT HAVE CONCERNING FURTHER EFFORTS BY GOJ TO PROMOTE THIS IDEA.

3. IT WAS CLEAR FROM SEVERAL REMARKS WHICH YOSHINO MADE THAT THIS EFFORT HAS STRONG SUPPORT OF PRIMIE MINISTER MIKI WHO, YOSHINO ACKNOWLEDGED, MIGHT EXPECT TO GAIN SOME DOMESTIC POLITICAL MILEAGE SHOULD IT BEAR FRUIT. YOSHINO ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MIKI MIGHT FACE SOME DIFFICULTY DURING DIET SESSION. HE EVIDENTILY DID NOT CONSIDER TIS AN INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACEL TO MIKI'S ATTENDANCE, HOWEVER, AND SUGGESTED THAT ADJUSTMENTS MIGHT BE MADE IN SCHEDULE FORDIET CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET. FINALLY, YOSHINO ANTICIAATED POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH ASEAN MIGHT PROMPT MORE INSISTENT DEMANDS FOR GOJ ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND-OR TRADE CNCESSIONS. HE FEELS, HOWEVER, THAT PRESSURES TO THIS EFFECT CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN ANY EVENT, AND THAT JAPAN MUST BE RESPONSIVE IF IT EXPECTS TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN ENCOURAGING GREATER POLITICAL STABILITY IN THE REGION.

4. ALTHOUGH JAPANESE PRESS HAS NOT REPORTED THE GOJ INITIATIVE IN TRYING TO OBTAIN INVITATIONS FOR MIKI, ASHAI JAN 22 COMMENTED ON REPORT FROM KUALA LUMPUR THAT MINISTER MIKI, WAS WELL AS AUSTRALIAN PRIMIE MINISTER FRASER CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 016034

AND NEW ZEALAND PRIMIE MINISTER MULDOON, MIGHT JOIN ASEAN LEADERS IN ONE-DAY POST SUMMIT CONSULTATIONS. ARTICLE CITES FONMIN MIYAZAWA AS SAYING INVITATIONS WOULD BE WELCOME BUT THAT NONE HAD YET BEEN RECEIVED. ARTICLE ALSO DISCUSSES THE PARLIAMENTARY PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS OF INCREASED ECONOMICASSISTANCE TO ASEAN BY JAPAN ALONG LINES FOLLOWED BY YOSHINO WITH CHARGE.

5. EMBOFF ASKED SINGAPORE POL COUNS OFF-HANDEDLY ABOUT PRESS REPORTS AND WAS TOLD THAT VICE FONMIN YOSHINO RAISED THE SUBJECT OF JOINT ASEAN-JAPAN SUMMIT WITH BOTH LEE KUAN YEW AND SINGAPORE FONMIN RAJARATNAM IN DEC. LEE AND RAJARATNAM MADE APPROPRIATELY RECEPTIVE RESPONSES IN PRINCIPLE

BUT INDICATED THAT SUCH A SUMMIT SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN FOLLOWING ADEQUATE PREPARATION AND ONLY AFTER THE ASEAN SUMMIT. SINGAPOREANS SAID THAT GOS COULD NOT SHEPHERD THE PROPOSAL ALONE AND SUGGESTED THAT GON CONTACT OTHER ASEAN GOVERNMENTS.

6. COMMENT: THESE EFFORTS, REPRESENTING ONE OF THE VERY FEW FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES BY GOJ SINCE WWII, REFLECT PRIME MINISTER MIKI'S DETERMINATION FOR JAPAN TO STRENGTHEN ITS POLITICAL ROLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, A THEME ENUNCIATED BY MIKI INSIDER, MASAO KUNIHIRO, RECENTLY TO EMBOFF (TOKYO 932). THE JAPANESE OBVIOUSLY WANT TO HEAR OUR VIEWS.

7. WHILE WE ARE CONCERNED THAT GOJ PARTICIPATION MIGHT BE CONSTRUED BY ASEAN COUNTRIES OR OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE AND AS PART OF POWER PLAY BY INDUSTRIALIZED WEST, WE ASSUME THAT ASEAN COUNTRIES EVEN MORE SENSITIVE THAN WE ON THIS POINT AND WILL NOT INVITE MIKI IF THEY DO NOT WANT HIM. BASICALLY JAPANESE INITIATIVE IS COMPATIBLE WITH OUR OWN INTERESTS, AND WE THINK US SHOULD SUPPORT IT IF ASEAN'S DO.

8. THE US HAS NOTHING TO GAIN BY JOINING AT THIS POINT. ANY FEARS IN AREA THAT SOME SORT OF ANTI-INDOCHINA BLOC BEING FORMED WOULD BE CONFIRMED BY OUR PRESENCE. WE SHOULD DECLINE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 016034

9. EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION: BEARING ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, WE RECOMMEND US TAKE FOLLOWING POSITION WITH JAPAN: JAPANESE DESIRE TO FOSTER POLITICAL STABILITY IN SE ASIA IDENTICAL TO US OBJECTIVES IN AREA AS OUTLINED IN PRESIDENT'S PACIFIC DOCTRINE SPEECH. IF THE SE ASIAN COUNTRIES EXTEND AN INVITATION TO PRIME MINISTER MIKI, AND OTHERS, THE US COULD SEE BENEFITS IN HIS ATTENDANCE. HOWEVER, WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE AT THIS STAGE IN AMERICAN PARTICIPATION.

10. (WE WILL VERY MUCH APPRECIATE ADDRESSEES STRICTLY PROTECTING INFORMATION YOSHINO PROVIDED US.)

11. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO CINCPAC FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB AND AMBASSADOR HODGSON.  
SHOESMITH  
X

UNQUOTE SISCO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, INVITATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE016034  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** O PJOHNSON  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760024-0666  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760133/aaaabdhj.tel  
**Line Count:** 221  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JAN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JAN 2004 by morefir>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JAPANESE INITIATIVE WITH ASEAN: PM MIKI TO THE ASEAN SUMMIT?  
**TAGS:** PFOR, JA, US, AS, NZ, ASEAN  
**To:** CINCPAC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006